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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Post-hearing comment re:  
Over-the-Counter Drug Products  
(Docket No. OON-1256)

This comment is self-initiated and not prompted by any pharmaceutical company, insurance company, or physician.

I am very grateful that three years ago, after my careful attention to diet and exercise produced no change in my elevated cholesterol levels, my physician Dr. Bill Joswig prescribed Provachol.

Use of Provachol has resulted in very favorable levels of cholesterol, HDL, and LDL. During the period of use Dr. Joswig has seen me every three months to check on the effects of Provachol together with the effects of other medications prescribed because of additional cardiac risk factors. He has done annual cholesterol level laboratory studies as well as studies of liver function.

OON-1256

CH 193

- 5 -

I am also grateful that through the HMO Pacificare and more recently through Secure Horizons, Pacificare's HMO Medicare program, I have been able to order by mail three-month supplies of Provachol for a \$20. co-payment per three-month order. As I understand it, a month supply of Provachol costs approximately \$100 in a retail pharmacy.

IT appears to me that even with the competition that might be generated by over-the-counter sale, that prices would not be reduced in retail pharmacies anywhere so low as the co-payment I now pay for prescription Provachol, mail-ordered from my Medicare HMO. Projecting annually, to a retail pharmacy cost at current prices of \$1200, versus the mail-order HMO prescription co-payment of \$80, there is an \$1120 difference on this one medication alone.

I am very sensitive to the need of non-HMO Medicare recipients to be offered reductions in medication costs similar to what I am now receiving through my HMO. I am also sensitive to the high retail pharmacy cost of Provachol for persons of all ages.

I do not, however, feel that changing Provachol from a prescription medication to an over-the-counter medication will lower its cost sufficiently to help its non-HMO users of any age. For me personally, it would be a financial hardship.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Very truly yours,